The BURMA NEWS

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Christmas Pageant, Moulmein

CHRISTMAS NUMBER

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The
BURMA NEWS

Editor: Leonard A. Crain.
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Christmas at Judson College

It is Christmas Eve at the college. A bus rolls up in the driveway; it might be in front of any one of the staff homes. Out pours a crowd of students, Burmese, Karens, Indians, Anglo-Burmans. Song books are produced, and flashlights as well, if the moon is not shining, and soon the air is filled with "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing," or "Silent Night." The students have hired a bus and are on a tour of the whole campus. When the songs are ended they invade the living room where the Christmas Tree is being decorated, making suggestions about hanging this cornucopia or that piece of tinsel, and perhaps having some refreshments before they push on to the next home.

But their departure is only temporary. At the crack of down they, or others, will be back to sing again and chop off that last half hour of Christmas morning slumber. The children's stockings! Why, yes, of course, they would like to stay around and watch the children open them. College students may be sophisticated about some things, but not about children's stockings on Christmas morning.

This is just part of the informal festivities at Judson at Christmas time. There is also a pageant of the nativity or a student chorus singing some of the "Messiah" at one of the vesper services in the Judson Chapel before Christmas. Perhaps there is a children's dedication service in the chapel on Christmas Eve. And earlier in December there is the annual Christmas dinner in the Benton Hall Quadrangle with songs, speeches, and stunts that keep everyone in gales of laughter. A Christmas Sunday Service is held in the Chapel as the high point of the season's celebrations. So Christmas comes to Judson.

Leonard B. Allen.

The cover illustration is a photograph of the cast of the Christmas Pageant given by the A. B. M. Karen High School at Daingwunkwin (pronounced "dye-un-kwin"), Moulmein. The Scripture verses above are in Burmese,

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...."

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

Christmas in Shanland

Tuesday morning dawned, warm and cloudy, but no rain. The Christians came bringing gifts of plantain, eggs, jaggery, sugar cane, and oranges to their missionaries. In the afternoon the missionaries went to the Leper Colony to enjoy their Christmas with them. Early that morning at THREE o'clock a bullock cart loaded with gifts had left the Mission Compound for the Colony five miles away. Arriving there, the missionaries were saluted by the firing off of old flintlock, cap and fuse guns. Some of the lepers come from Yunnan, China, and it is they who brought this custom to the Colony.

Soon the gift-giving began. Each leper received a suit of new clothes, (and it costs very much less than your new suit, twenty to sixty cents apiece) a piece of soap, and a woollen scarf knitted by thoughtful friends from the land of the white man. The children each receive a toy of some kind. Several little girls received dolls from America. How they loved them, and pressed them close to their mothering little bodies the rest of the day. The lepers gave gifts of eggs to the missionaries.

Now came an entertainment of stunts and plays. First they put an old tin can on the ground several yards away. One by one the lepers were blindfolded and told to hit the can. One man and one woman were successful. The Lahu Lepers had their pipe dance around a freshly planted pine tree. This is a custom brought down from China. It is in celebration of the Chinese New Year when a pine tree is planted in front of the home where the dancing will take place. But now the Hill Tribe Lahu, those who are Christians, have transferred this custom to Christmas.

The third item on the program was when some men appeared in war-like formation with guns. On the other side appeared some faces painted up to look very fierce, each man carrying a wooden gun whittled out of branches. One man had some wooden horns which he carefully held around his neck. This was "Satan and his Angels" who were eventually overcome by the "Christian Warriors," the latter leaving the scene of battle singing a song of victory. Out marched another group, dressed in white blouses and black pants, the leader in a long flowing robe that was suspiciously like a borrowed hospital gown! On their heads were paper crowns, Crusader style. The leader carried a wooden cross. They marched around and around, singing all the time. Again appeared the 'Imps of Darkness' but after several vain attempts to overcome the Crusaders they again left in defeat. Other stunts such as races in orange eating and needle threading kept people amused until darkness settled down and the really big part of the entertainment was presented.

Little colored paper candle holders had been stuck into the ground, and in each one was placed a lighted candle, giving a fairy-land atmosphere to the otherwise rather barren place. A shelter, open on three sides had been built for the audience. And now began the first Pageant that Lepers had ever attempted to arrange all by themselves. It was in Shan. There were scenes showing the difference between a Christian and Buddhist festival, the former having drinking and gambling, the latter having prayer, preaching, and singing. They showed how non-Christians drive lepers away, whereas Christians feed, comfort, and clothe them. Finally came "John the Baptist" preaching in the wilderness. Next was shown the king sitting in state on his throne, a chair. Around him gathered minstrels and feasters, before him

danced a beautiful girl; she was imitated by a wee very cunning little girl. The dancer asked for the head of John the Baptist, we heard a never-to-be-forgotten groan as it was severed from the body behind the curtains, and quickly it was brought in on a tray and presented to the girl! In between scenes several of the eloquent speakers of the Colony described what was portrayed and added a bit of preaching, for about two hundred Buddhists from nearby villages had come to see what was going on. At eight o'clock all was finished and the missionaries went home, praising the Lord for leper Christians.

Dorothy W. Buker.

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New Missionaries Delayed

We have all been anxiously awaiting the arrival of the new appointees, Mr. Blanchard and Mr. and Mrs. Tegenfeldt. Mr. Blanchard is to go into Burman station work, it is anticipated; Mr. and Mrs. Tegenfeldt are to take the work of Dr. and Mrs. Josif at Cushing and Baptist English High Schools.

Sailings have been so interrupted due to war conditions that we have not known quite when to expect these new folk. Actually, some of us in Rangoon have met two boats, hoping that these friends would be on board.

Word has just been received from New York that they are scheduled to sail about the middle of December. If these plans work out, they will be with us about the first of February.

Sailing of the Tegenfeldts has been delayed due to the formalities of securing British visas. We are hoping that all the "red tape" has been cleared up and nothing will appear to hinder them further from coming. They are urgently needed!

The Field Secretary's office has word that Mr. Blanchard is expecting to be married before he sails. This happy prospect has been the reason for his delay in sailing. We are looking forward to giving the newly married couple a cordial welcome when they arrive.

Mission Treasurer.

Congratulations

Congratulations, a bit late, but none the less hearty, to Mr. and Mrs. John Michael Billane. On October 7th, Miss Agnes Darrow of Judson College was married to Mr. John Michael Billane. The ceremony took place in Calcutta. Mr. Billane is stationed in Madras as manager of the Dunlop Rubber Company. Mrs. Billane came back to her teaching duties at the College, but she expects soon to join her husband in India.

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Did You Know That—

Hasseltine House, located in Newton Centre, Mass., is a home operated by the Woman's American Baptist Foreign Mission Society for the comfort of missionaries on furlough? Their own missionaries have first call on the accommodations but there is usually room for couples of the General Society.

Hasseltine House has been completely renewed, inside and out, the walls insulated, new heating apparatus installed, and has all modern improvements.

Miss Rose Nicolet is just bringing to a close a highly successful term of service as matron. Miss Margaret Suman will be temporarily in charge. You are cordially invited to correspond directly with

Miss Margaret Suman,
Hasseltine House, 40 Chase Street,
Newton Centre, Mass.

concerning a stay there during your next furlough.

Christmas Beyond Alawbum

On Alawbum Mountain, about thirty miles north of Bhamo, there are four schools, and besides these which are also used as worship places there are three chapels in villages in the plains. Beyond Alawbum on another small mountain about 40 miles from the farthest of these villages and about ten miles from the nearest there is a new school in a nat-worshiping village. A teacher and his wife are there, about 25 Christian boarders, and about ten pupils from the village. The villagers are still very wary of Christianity though they wanted to have the school in their village. When the teacher and school children have Sunday services in the school building, some of the villagers will pretend to be passing and stop for a bit to listen under the school. They don't want any meetings held in their houses but welcome a kind word and a little advice from the teacher and his wife, and are looking at these Christians and judging Christianity from them.

Last Christmas, in each of the older schools on Alawbum on Christmas Day the usual little concerts and tree and present giving were held. The usual celebration includes the reading of the Christmas story from the Bible, a prayer, two or three Christmas hymns out of the regular hymn book, usually sung in a tune which originally was the tune we use, but which slowly has evolved into something quite different. Sometimes they have a manger scene with wise men and shepherds. There is also usually a very simple drill or two, hardly more than gymnastic exercises. The participants keep time by humming a song to themselves.

Sometimes there is a play for the non-Christians. At Jein last year I saw a very good one. There was a sick girl whose family called in a witch doctor who divined with a bamboo stick over a fire to see what it was that made her sick. When it was laid on the fire if it snapped one way when full of hot air it meant one thing and if another way, another thing. Then he told the family what offerings they must give according to the divination. When the family were doing this way and the child was getting worse, the Christian teacher came in with quinine and offered to help. They accepted this help as the other did not seem to work, and the child began to get better, and the family were willing to hear about Christianity.

There are different forms of such plays which are all quite good. If however the villagers begin on the Prodigal Son the audience is so much interested in his escapades that it is difficult to get him back to his father's home.

Last year after the Alawbum school children had had their own Christmas celebrations, they all went to Bunnoi kyet, a Nat worshipping village. They left their homes at different times so that they all arrived at the village on New Year's Eve, carrying food for themselves and extra nice things for the villagers to eat. They also brought some of the Christmas cards which they had saved out of what I had given them for their own Christmas. The Christians arranged sports for the villagers for the day time and in the evening called them all to the school house where they showed them the best of their former Christmas day programs and then gave the cards and sugar cane and fruit and vegetables which they had brought, explaining about the Gift of Jesus Christ, and His love which made them all want to share the good things they had. The next day they went home empty handed but happy hearted.

Gertrude Anderson

Christmas at E. M. M. Hospital

The celebrations begin sometimes a week before Christmas Day with the special Christmas service and pageant presented by the girls of the English Girls' High School. As many of the nurses as possible go to that and enjoy the lovely singing of carols and the costumes and the real Christmas message.

Then comes the tree for the children of the Mon Church .Some of our Staff teach in the Mon S. S. and help in the work of the church. And the Mons have been most cordial in inviting the nurses to their meetings. A program of songs and recitations is prepared each year. Last year the Mon children gave in Burmese a playlet about the children of various races meeting on the road to Bethlehem and telling how they knew about the Christ child and showing what gifts they were taking to Him.

On another evening is the program at the Karen School and most of the nurses plan to go to it. They enjoy the special items of Christmas music and the pageant given.

Then as near to Christmas Day as possible is the nurses' tree. Again a program of Carols and scripture reading is planned. Last year the girls gave in Burmese a short play based on Van Dyke's story, "The Other Wise Man." All the workers on the compound are invited and all receive some gift from the tree, especially the children. Santa Claus needs many helpers to clear the tree of its load of gifts.

On Christmas Eve is the carolling. How the nurses love to go out in buses to the homes of elderly friends, steal up to the house with candles lit, and sing their carols! Then after two hours they hurry back for a cup of hot cocoa and to bed to listen to other groups coming to carol all through the night.

Early Christmas morning the nurses are up and just as it begins to dawn they take their candles and go to the hospital to sing carols in each ward. Then to the work of the day. Half of the girls go on duty and half are free in the morning.

At Mt. Hope we share our presents after chota. There is much hilarity at the jokes that have appeared on the tree. One little ship claimed to have come from South America in the preceding week. Gifts from the dog or the cat or from some famous person like the President of the United States are passed out to unsuspecting persons.

The nurses' Christmas Tree is taken over to the hospital and set up in the entrance hall. At noon the beds of some of the patients are moved into the hall. Patients who can sit up and the children are gathered there too and a service is held. Various carols are sung. The Christmas scripture is read and the message of Christ's love is given in as simple words as possible. Then Santa Claus comes again and gives some gift to each one. Oranges and peanuts are passed out to all.

Christmas afternoon the nurses who are off duty go on a picnic to Amherst or some place on the river. The other half have their turn on New Year's Day. The girls greatly enjoy this chance to get away from the hospital and come back tired but happy. Some who have never seen the sea are thrilled at the chance to bathe in it and jump the waves. Then Dr. Grey's house at Amherst invites them for their picnic dinner.

Christmas evening is the missionary dinner and it is a joy to get together at the home of one group of us and share the good eats and the specially good companionship. And so the celebrations end but the Christmas spirit carries on through the year.

Grace Seagrave.

Christmas Happiness

for Burma's Children

Christmas in Taunggyi

Christmas time was coming; quarterly tests in the A. B. M. Boys' School were over, and it was time to think of a Christmas program. The Superintendent's wife had a copy of a play modeled on "Why the Chimes Rang." This she gave to the Headmaster, a real Burmese scholar. He made a fine detailed translation.

Who would be the actors? One would naturally select Christian boys, but the Superintendent's wife found that the Buddhist boys of her High School Bible Class were equally anxious to join in. She selected the players indiscriminately, with only one exception: the part of the Christ Child was given to an earnest-faced, truly Christian lad who acted his part well.

The curtain rose on a scene that was a cross between Big Bazaar Day and an evening Pwe, with all sorts of salesmen crying their wares. In the center was a large collection of candles and paper lanterns. Back and forth across the stage went a boy striking a gong, proclaiming that in bygone years the Christ-Child had visited that town at Christmas. For more than a century, however, he had not appeared. The king felt there had not been sufficient illuminations to attract him. He therefore urged everyone to make special effort to light up their houses. His appearance would be announced by the ringing of the church bells.

Weaving in and out of the crowd, jostled and unrecognized, went the Christ-Child. He looked hungrily at the piles of cakes and sweets, but had no money to buy. He was dressed neatly and cleanly, but his garment was patched.

One also saw in the crowd a poor woman with little money trying to decide how she should best spend it. She finally decided on one candle, a large loaf of bread, a small packet of tea and a little sugar. From time to time a flashlight from the wings picked out these two characters.

The second scene showed a very humble cottage with the poor woman evidently weary telling the four children gathered around her about her day's work. At cooly wage she had earned but little. She told them much about the gay market scene, and what she had bought, hoping they would not be disap-

pointed because she had bought a candle instead of sweets. Perhaps when big brother came home he would have some money; he had been sent to carry a wash to its owner.

But when big brother came in, he had no money, he had been told to come back tomorrow for the pay. He had an armful of twigs and soon a fire was blazing merrily and the kettle was boiling for tea.

Just then there was a knock at the door, and in came a shivering boy, the Christ-Child, still unrecognized. They brought him to the fire, one child gave him a cup of tea and another his roll of bread. As they all made him welcome, his patched garment dropped off and he stood before them in glittering attire. As they stood watching him, the church bells began to ring.

In the final scene, everyone came hurrying to see the Christ-Child, but he appeared only as first seen. As the bells ceased ringing, a voice said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, ye have done it unto Me."

The school hall was packed with parents and friends. The next morning the Burman Buddhist cook of one of the missionaries came to his master saying that they had understood the story because there was a resemblance to their own Light Feast. Might they light up the missionary's house similarly on Christmas Eve? Permission being given, the news quickly spread to other houses and the spirit of rivalry made brilliant illuminations in Christian houses as well.

So now it transpires that in Taunggyi it has become the custom for Christians to light up their houses on Christmas Eve with all sorts of candles and paper lanterns. Is it a mistake? Jesus said "I am the Light of the World. He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the Light of Life."

Elizabeth M. Heptonstall.

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Rest House, Maymyo

Because of war conditions I have had many applications for accommodation at the Rest House at this time, and running over into the hot season months. Will you therefore take this information as urgent and let me know as to your plans, so I can reserve rooms for you. I will wait until February 1st, 1941 to hear from you.

Frieda Peter Geis
Superintendent.

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Lois Katherine Nelson

Congratulations are in order to Rev. and Mrs. Franklin Nelson, on the arrival of a fine daughter, Lois Katherine, at Golaghat, Assam, on the 18th of October. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson have been spending some time in Assam, carrying on with language study, awaiting the happy event. They expect to return to Tiddim shortly after the first of the year.

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Wanted Hymn Books

Calvary Baptist Church, Maymyo, is eager to find and buy some copies of two different song books; namely, THE BAPTIST HYMNAL (published A. B. Publication Society, 1903), and SONGS AND SOLOS by Ira Sankey. Anyone having spare copies of these books please write to Rev. L. B. Kelly at Maymyo. We should like to buy the copies even if only one or two copies are available from any one place. The books are needed *with* Music.

Maubin Pastors' Class

This so-called "vacation" or "recess" in Oct. has been a busy time, but it has also been a happy time. We closed Divinity School recitations Friday afternoon and I took the noon launch for Maubin on Saturday. A visit to Maubin could not be other than an enjoyable one for me. The Pastor's Annual Bible Class was in session and I had gone to share the teaching of it for the following week with Brayton Case. Both of those factors made it interesting. Many of the older workers I used to know had passed on to the better land and I missed them, but still many of the men with whom I had been formerly associated were present. Then also some of the youngsters had grown up and were taking a man's place. The attendance must have been at least 60 present at most sessions. I had a good time and I hope the class did also. They looked as though they understood my rusty Karen!

Mr. Case taught a course in the life of the apostles and another in agriculture. It sounded as though it was mostly "beans". He was equally enthusiastic over both courses and the stream of Burmese was a torrent. Not only in class was he busy, but he was at it early and late with the boys he has as promoters over the district. Even up to the last minute on the launch he had a group, and just before the whistle blew they formed a little circle, locked in each others' arms with heads bowed in prayer. For evening, which was thoroughly enwonder.

Our Hostess was a model of thoughtfulness. Though in the process of examinations, I am sure she gave more thought and attention to the task of keeping these "men folks filled up" three times a day. It must have been a new experience in that household to have such a task. We are prepared to give her a chit for "excellency" whenever she may have use for it. The last evening our Hostess had the whole class in for a social evening, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

I attended a meeting of the Home Mission Society of the Association one evening, and I was impressed with the way the meeting was conducted. There were some very definite differences of opinion on some matters of importance, but under the guidance of the able Chairman, self control, order and courtesy were observed in a manner that would have been a credit to any assembly.

The Fletchers were inquired after by various ones and fortunately we had just received a letter from Mrs. Chaney's sister on whom the Fletcher tribe had just descended previous to writing, and it was an enthusiastic and entertaining letter that sister Edith wrote. Thus I had some up-to-the-minute news to give on the Fletchers.

We made some calls about town, meeting many old acquaintances. But Maubin did not look as trim and attractive as I used to think it did. It looked rather run down at the heels. Perhaps the difference is in me and not in Maubin. When I was there as a jungle wallah, the town looked like a "grand" place. Now that I have lived in Rangoon, has Maubin suffered by contrast?

We were out to dinner one evening at the Deputy Commissioner's. When he heard that I had been resident in Maubin he raised his eyebrows and inquired how long I had been there. When I told him, he remarked, "I take off my hat to any man that has stayed here that long." So Maubin is a place in which to win distinction. The mosquito was also there, he was there in force, and we thanked God for a screened room. The river was still there with all of its constantly changing and interesting river life. I never wearied of

that. Then there was the launch, Harry-Morris inviting me to start on tour, and Thomas, the Faithful, always ready to get to go with us. I felt a bit homesick as I thought of visiting again all the old villages along the river, and the beautiful moonlight nights on the water.

Thus I returned to Rangoon feeling richer and refreshed by the trip. I still have many fine friends at Maubin, and that always makes a visit so enjoyable.

C. E. Chaney.

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Toungoo, Paku

The pastors' Bible class this year which included as usual the workers from both the Bwe and Paku fields was fully attended and a fine spirit was felt all through it. There were over 100 in attendance at one time or another. The visit of Dr. Condict and Mr. Crain was very much appreciated and they responded to their messages and also took steps to arrange for greater cooperation in the future care of the school and mission work.

Just now the ladies are having a Women's Institute for study both of the Bible and other subjects such as home, health and temperance. Their attendance has just about equalled that of the men and so much interest is being taken that this will doubtless become an annual affair for their improvement.

Ralph A. Earnshaw came to this compound from America in 1898, after having served as an officer in the Spanish — American war in "Teddy" Roosevelt's Rough Riders and being wounded at the battle of San Juan Hill. When the prospects for coffee planting were shattered by a blight, he turned to this school and was for a few years the head of the school. Then he went into the timber business and for a number of years has lived his own life. Last year he was brought to Toungoo very ill and it was our privilege to befriend him then. Again this year he was taken with heart disease and we brought him to this mission house where after a few weeks he suddenly died on the 23rd of November.

It is significant that not only did he return at the last to this compound to end his earthly journey but there was also a real returning to God. Almost his last word to me was, "I would like to live a little longer to do somebody some good." It was also remarkable that the middle aged men who were his pupils in school all came about him and, forgetting the intervening years, spoke so appreciatively of their debt to him and of what he had done for them when they were under his charge. The whole community followed him to his last resting place.

H. I. Marshall.

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Pyinmana to Bombs and Burma Crops

Everything had been arranged for my Northern Shan States tour to visit hillside agricultural demonstration among the Kachins immediately after the All-Burma Convention in Rangoon the latter part of October. Newspapers reported the Burma-Yunnan road had been reopened to the Chinese and munition trucks were again on the road. What the Japanese would do was a question.

Mr. Will Cummings met me at Kutkai with his Ford Vanette and with Pyinmana graduates working as supervisors in the area we climbed hillsides in various directions on detours away from the high-way to visit friendly villages cooperating in our program of growing pea and bean crops in addition to the regular hillside rice crop.

We were rejoicing to see the bumper crops of rice growing so well because of row planting and better weeding and the tall pigeon pea

coming along nicely. Then suddenly came the news that the Japanese had bombed Loiwing on the other side of the China border. A group of airplanes returning from the raid had been seen by the villagers. A few days later we saw what life was like for people who had gone through a bombing raid from the air.

Dr. and Mrs. Seagrave and all their sixty nurses in training had gone to the rescue to save whom they could of the wounded. The sight of scattered refugees looking for safe places for shelter after having their friends killed and the twisted pieces of blown up buildings and open craters where the bombs had fallen, made one understand something of the realities of war. The strain on nerves of those who while they worked kept one eye turned up and noticed every strange sound lest another air raid was starting, was all part of the tribulation of war borne with patience as part of the cost which must be paid.

At the top of a six thousand foot range one night we stopped at the Lisu Christian village of Pangum which overlooked the Yunnan Road. Here, Alipa our only Lisu graduate from Pyinmana is supervising the agricultural demonstrations of a circuit where good interest is shown. Apollus one of the church elders had an outstandingly good demonstration with four kinds of new crops growing well, besides several varieties of fruit trees obtained from us. In addition he had thirty-nine irrigated terraced rice fields on the mountain side. The Lisus used to shift their villages from place to place frequently but now with their roots in the soil through this permanent kind of agriculture we hope to build up more permanent Christian communities.

At Namma, near Kutkai the villagers growing pigeon pea to occupy the ground after harvesting the rice had much trouble from stray cattle. The cattle owners said " if you don' like it move your pea crop some where else." Now the growers have induced a whole valley to plant their pigeon pea so that everybody there will help to keep out the cattle this year and a new source of cash income will be available as well as a much needed nitrogenous food for their diet.

On the return journey in Hsipaw State found many good fields of pigeon pea among the Shans where I had gone to start a planting campaign last July. At nearly every village along the highway where we stopped there were smiling friends to welcome us and show us with pride the new crop they were producing. We are now planning to help them market this crop.

All along the tour the growing friendliness toward the mission program and the new confidence that better things in life were possible was most encouraging. Mr. Cummings is making a real place for himself and his work in the confidence of the people. Although there are bombs, the bumper crops and friendly interest is increasing good will among men.

Brayton C. Case

" May we be able to act worthily of our high calling, however heavy the strain may be. May God grant, not only that the right may win, but that in striving for its victory and in using its results we may be saved from the very evils against which we are struggling — from selfish ambition, from cruelty, from injustice, even to those who have been led astray and whose minds have been poisoned. May the outcome of this struggle be the cleansing of civilization and its final penetration by the Spirit of Liberty."

— From " Civilization and Liberty," by Ramsay Muir.

Mrs. Ellen Bonner

Some of our Burma missionaries at home will be interested to know of the passing of an old friend, Mrs. Bonner. For many years at the Mission Press she handed out to us our salaries. Through the little cage window. She taught some of us how to write mission cheques, how to handle the mission accounts, and all was done in her kindly, quiet, efficient way. One always felt her deep interest and friendliness.

She retired to her pretty home in Insein in 1920 and on 2nd October 1940 passed away very suddenly from a heart attack. For many months, perhaps years, she had quietly prepared for this summons. She had often spoken of it and we all knew how ready and happy she was at the thought.

It so happened that Dr. and Mrs. St. John were spending the day with us when the burial was held and of course he had a part in the service which Mr. Chaney conducted. In the personal letters which she left for each of her children, she had told them exactly what she wanted done for that service and had especially asked that the A. B. M. missionaries should be invited for as she often said, they were her "best friends".

There was also left an account of her life telling of the years of effort in supporting and educating her six children for she was left a widow when the eldest was but seven years old and the youngest eleven months. These are her words, "I have to be most thankful to the A. B. M. missionaries who have been my friends. I praise God that I was born a Baptist and came in close touch with my Baptist brothers and sisters and can truly say 'Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love', for many a burden has been lifted from me by one of them, and many a sympathizing tear has been shed for me, and to be with them day in and day out, year in and year out, has been a joy to me. The secret of my success has been, I put God first and asked for help and guidance from Him. Then I put my shoulder to the wheel and worked hard."

God's loving care for her has ever been her testimony and she often expressed to her family and others her happy Christian faith in Him and all His ways.

Elsie N. Chaney.

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The Mission has lost a faithful friend in the person of Mrs. Ellen Bonner who passed away in her home at Insein early in October.

Mrs. Bonner was a beautiful woman in looks and in character and I shall miss her as one of my early friends in Burma. Our sympathy goes out to her family. One of them says, "Here was a noble life and we are thankful to the Almighty for having given us such a mother."

Emma W. Marshall.

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Christian G. Scherling

Christian G. Scherling, Head of the Department of Chemistry, Judson College, passed away on December 3rd, at the General Hospital, Rangoon. Mr. Scherling had been ill for some months, but was thought to be recovering and had resumed his teaching duties at the College. He was taken ill again, however, and was removed to the hospital, where he remained for several days before his passing.

He rendered distinguished service to the educational institutions of the Baptist Mission, having been with the College for more than fifteen years, and having served the Baptist English High School as well. He was a member of Immanuel Baptist Church, Rangoon.

His many friends join with Mrs. Scherling and the children in mourning his loss.

The American School

American School Field Hockey Team.

Left to right. Donald Rickard, Paul Josif, Margaret Smith, Dorothy Dudrow, Arthur Smith, Earl Hackett.

Another school year is drawing to a close and the children are joyfully looking forward to vacation time again. Although they will miss one another and their good times together, yet they are glad to think of being with their parents for the cold season.

We have had a busy and delightful time together this year. We are like a big family and though we have our difficulties we have our good times, too and learn to work together. The school opened February 24th with an enrollment of 22. Since Miss Taylor was on furlough, one of the mothers, Mrs. D. O. Smith, filled the gap and has been a great help.

With the seasons have come our various activities. During the hot season when the parents were here we had ball, picnics, teas, and a general good time. One of the most delightful days was spent at the bungalow at Inle Lake where the children seemed to be transformed into water babies, only taking time out to eat. Mr. Dudrow was a big help in entertaining the boys, but I fear suffered the next day from a good touch of sun-burn.

During the rains football and hockey were the games. The boys, with the help of some military boys, were able to make up a team and join the younger boy's football league. Although they did not win they were able to hold their own in most games and it gave them an incentive to work toward.

June found us short of four boys, the Josifs and the Griffiths. We have heard that the Griffith boys have settled in a private school in Virginia, and though they have all the advantages they do miss Burma. I understand that the Josifs had quite an exciting journey home for they were caught in a typhoon. Of course the boys would enjoy that. I hope that the boys will soon make their new school their home and make many new friends.

During July we put all our efforts into an operetta, "The Magic Beanstalk" given August 3rd at the Hulda Mix School. All the costumes and scenery were made by the children. With all the cooperation of the children and Mrs. Young, the operetta was a success. Even after the operetta, snatches of the different songs could be heard, "Heigho, Come to the Fair" and "We're Pirates Fierce From the Spanish Main".

After the operetta was finished the girls worked industriously on handwork for a Guide Sale held the 14th of September to raise funds for the war. They made belts, pillows, scrap books, and an afghan.

I do trust and hope that those who are leaving The American School and Burma for good will like their home land but that some will fit themselves for service here later among the people. Whatever they do, however, I hope they will always trust in the Lord as their Guide and Friend.

Frances Ryder.

Friends in America

From Miss Hastings:

37, Robbins Road,
Arlington, Mass.,
October 28, 1940.

Since the letter sent from Japan I have written almost no letters but have taken things as easy as possible.

My brother made some changes in his house and was in the midst of carpenter work when I reached San Francisco and advised me not to hurry home on that account. So I went down to Los Angeles and had a very nice visit with the Wiatts and Hattie May Price and saw Mrs. Miner, the Rogers, Mrs. Roach and the Hendershots and Helen Harris and her father (Mrs. Harris was away for the weekend.) On my way home by way of the Canadian Rockies I saw the Weeks', spending a night with them. Met the Tegenfeldts, who seemed very fine young people, looking forward to their work in Cushing.

At home a good welcome awaited me and I am feeling much stronger than when I arrived and they say I look better each week. Have had medical examinations and they think conditions are improving.

My best regards to all.

Olive A. Hastings.

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From the Rogers':

715, Orange St.,
Redlands, Calif.
Nov. 19, 1940.

Dear News Family,

The holiday season is drawing near and we had hoped to send off a lot of greeting cards to friends in Burma, but pressure of work here and the fact that we felt our first obligation was to our former fellow-workers in our station has delayed us until it is too late now to send by ordinary mail, so this letter to all of you by AIR MAIL.

We think of you all and pray for you, especially when your names appear in the Book of Remembrance. Our hearts turn again and again to Burma and we think of the splendid fellowship we had with you all there and wish it might be continued indefinitely. In these days of strife and anxiety we pray that you may all be kept from harm and in the confidence of a loving Father's protecting care. The wish for a *Merry Christmas* at such a time seems inadequate, but we do wish you all the joy and satisfaction that is possible from the knowledge that you are doing to the best of your ability the work that God has committed into your hands.

We are both taking our place in the life of the church here and helping in its activities as well as doing a considerable in the line of representing Burma to the churches and other bodies as we have opportunity. The "Burma Road" has made information concerning Burma of special interest and we have had opportunity to speak to groups, clubs and schools in a way to stimulate interest in the land of our adoption.

Affectionately yours,
Lewis and Mayme Rogers.

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From the Telfords:

Permanent Home Address:
c/o A. B. F. M. Society,
152 Madison Ave., New York,
Oct. 15, 1940.

Dear Folks in Burma,

A fine letter from Marian Shivers recently dated May 27th pulled me up with a start when I realized that the date marked the anniversary of our — Margaret and I — sailing from Rangoon. What ages ago! I feel as if we had lived through several generations since May 27th, 1939. They say history repeats itself! Surely never before has history been made so speedily. But how much real living one does in times of stress when eternal realities become a necessity and we learn how sustaining "The bread of life" really can be. What times for building those "more stately mansions" of the soul! Many of us are learning as never before that "The God of Jacob is our refuge and underneath are the everlasting arms." This reminds me of a dear little story. A small boy in Scotland finished his prayers by saying; "And dear God take good care of yourself for if anything happens to you we are sunk." "Underneath are the everlasting arms."

The primary purpose of this letter is to convey to you all greetings and loving Christmas wishes. May His peace and His love and His joy be your best Christmas gifts and gifts that will be carried into and through the New Year.

Our family is scattered as usual. Hudson is with the navy near London. We had a cheering "All's-Well" cable from him the other day. Bob and Margaret are in school in Toronto. Jim is doing deputational work in Oregon and I am having a few weeks in Pasadena, California. Jim will be coming this way soon and after some engagements here we plan to return to Toronto and the children for the winter month. We are due to sail for Burma again in April.

Friends in America

I long to write more personal letters but you know how busy that blessed respite, a furlough, can be. We want to drink deeply of that which we are denied so long. Our children. Our friends and relatives! And those thousands of things we look forward to doing when we get home again!

Doctors and dentists! There is no escape! They are sure to find causes to justify our being even a bit more lazy than we dare be. We should like a prescription sometime of how to carry out the doctor's orders.

Joe Taylor said yesterday at the Convention being held in Glendale, Calif. that "there is one thing more difficult than being a missionary and that is being a pastor at home." Being a missionary may be difficult but it is at the same time the greatest privilege on earth.

Many of you would like to know how conditions are at home. So should we! We must look to our heavenly Father who is loving, merciful and just.

Yours in prayerful comradeship,
A. Gertrude Telford.

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From the Weeks':

Route 1,
Ferndale, Washington,
21st September, 1940.

My dear Dr. Condict:

Since my mother's death we are able to get out more and are having an increasing number of calls to speak. We don't want to get worn threadbare so would like all the current material available! We take The News.

I would be very thankful if you could get our names on the list for the publicity material which is published; also for all the report letters, general letters, or "what have you" which individual missionaries send out.

I tried to get this once before and had a few letters but only once from any one station. What I want is something that will keep us fresh and up-to-date all of the time.

It will help us personally a lot to have these things and I hope it will mean added usefulness mission-wise!

Olive Hastings was with us for twenty-four hours! How glad we were that she arranged to stop.

We have been glad for the chance to know the Tegenfeldts who are coming to Cushing. We attended their farewell last Wednesday week but that morning they had a telegram saying that their British visa had not come so they are delayed. They are Swedish so ought to have no difficulty.

Yours,
L. S. Weeks.

A Veteran Missionary

Any who were in Burma before 1910 will remember well my aunt Mrs. Harriet C. Stevens, and will be glad to hear of her. On November 24th she celebrated her 99th birthday and in both body and mind she is still strong and able to enjoy life and be a blessing to her friends. The daughter of Dr. Francis Mason, she was born in Tavoy but as her mother died when she was only two years old, she early went to America, from whence she returned in 1865, as the wife of Rev. E. O. Stevens, himself a child of Burma misionaries, and for 45 years they gave themselves to Burman work. At Dr. Stevens' death in 1910, Mrs. Stevens returned to America but she has never lost her love for Burma nor proficiency in the Burmese language. It was she who prepared the references for the Burmese Bible with painstaking care. In a recent letter (and her handwriting is like fine engraving) she said, "Tell my Burmese friends that I read a chapter every day aloud from the Burmese Bible so as not to forget the language which I love." She has been much interested in the China-Burma Road and said, "I was thrilled to hear of this new opening for Burma trade and I hope it will help Burma to wake up."

As I read this over, it sounds almost like an obituary notice but I assure you Mrs. Stevens is very much alive, and we hope we may continue to have her interest and prayers until she completes her 100th year at least.

Emma W. Marshall.

Religious Books Recently Received at the A. B. M. Press

What's Right With the World. Gordon S. Palmer. A book of optimism, discussing the church, education, home life, world relationships, with an eye to discovering the hopeful points. Dr. Palmer is President of Eastern Theological Seminary, Philadelphia. Rs. 4/8.

Youth Looks At Religion. Arthur C. Wickenden. An attempt to think through from the young person's standpoint some of the vital questions of religion. Not an attempt to "tell them what they must think," but to help them find their way about in the world of religious thinking. Discussions of prayer, the nature of God, the Church and social change, the future of religion. Rs. 4/8.

Lift Up Your Hearts. W. Russell Bowie. A little book of prayers and helps for private and public worship. A unique book in carrying prayers and other material for children, young people and adults. Richly bound. Rs. 3/12.

The Lower Levels of Prayer. George S. Stewart. An unusual book, giving in painstaking detail suggestions to those who are beginning the practice of prayer. Some of the hindrances and how to overcome them; the blessings of prayer; God's answer to prayer. Rs. 4/8.

Five Decades and a Forward View. John R. Mott. A review of the last fifty years of missions by one who has occupied a prominent part during the half century. A hopeful outlook for the future. A challenge to Christian leaders. Rs. 4/8.

Hymns for Creative Living. Published by the Judson Press. A little book containing about 200 hymns, a set of responsive readings, worship aids, etc. Thoroughly up-to-date, yet keeping many of the fine old hymns. Rs. 1/4.

Minister's Service Book. Compiled by James Dalton Morrison. One of the best books of worship materials, suggested orders of services, prayers, etc., yet produced. More than 250 pages of materials collected by a highly successful Baptist minister. Rs. 4/8.

The New Testament Today. Ernest F. Scott. A brief survey of the modern approach to the Bible. Accurate and scholarly, yet written in terms intelligible to the layman. Rs. 3/-.

A Conservative Introduction to the New Testament. Samuel A. Cartledge. A fairly complete introduction, with bibliography, to the books of the New Testament, presented from the conservative point of view. Rs. 5/4.

Let the Bible Help You. 1.500 Helpful compelled by George compiled by George Perry Dixon. Rs. 4/8.

God's Purpose. A fine little devotional book of "365 sermonettes" for home worship. The contributors are among the fine preachers of many different denominations. Rs. 2/4.

The World's Religions. Charles S. Braden. A short and concise account, written for the layman, of the great religions of the world. The author is Professor of History and Literature of Religions, Northwestern University, Chicago. Rs. 4/8.

Things Which Cannot Be Shaken. A symposium of short essays, by the Dean of St. Paul's, the Rev. Leslie Weatherhead, the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of England, and others, who find amongst the hatred and passion of these days, many fundamental "things which cannot be shaken." Rs. 3/-.

The Christian Message for the World Today. A joint statement by some of the foremost leaders in the churches, notably Dr. Stanley Jones, Bishop F. J. McConnell, William Paton, Basil Mathews, and others. States clearly the reason and motives for missions in the modern world — the task of making Christ known in all lands. Rs. 1/12.

Remaking Life. Albert W. Beaven. The latest book by the President of the Colgate-Rochester Divinity School. The task of Christianity is nothing short of the remaking of lives, and it demands nothing less of its followers than their greatest living. Rs. 6/-.

The Psychology of Christian Personality. Ernest M. Ligon. A study of the teachings of Jesus, as embodied in the Sermon on the Mount, in the light of modern psychological research. A unique approach to this subject. Rs. 9/-.

Their Future is Now. Ernest M. Ligon. Detailed study of the process of growth in character, including tests for measuring character development and religious attainment. A sequel to "The Psychology of Christian Personality." Rs. 9/-.

Ida S. Scudder of Vellore. Mary Pauline Jeffery. A vivid account of the life and work of one of the most colorful figures in missions in India, the woman who began thirty years ago with one room, and now operates the finest mission hospital in South India. Rs. 3/-.

Twelve Tests of Character.

Harry Emerson Fosdick. A series of twelve articles published by Dr. Fosdick some years ago, nevertheless up-to-date and worth while in their emphasis.

Rs. 2/10.

Books Wanted

If any of you have a copy of "Two Thousand Years of Missions before Carey" by Barnes that you could spare, I would be very glad to have it for my class on General Missions here at the Seminary

And if anyone has Volumes II and III of "A History of the Expansion of Christianity" by Kenneth Scott Latourette, could I borrow them for a few weeks? Dr. Latourette's second Volume is named "A Thousand Years of Uncertainty." I do not know the name of the third Volume but I know it is finished. Eventually we hope to have them all in the Library here at the Divinity School.

Elsie N. Chaney.

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Forgiveness in Action

There was a missionary named Adoniram Judson who left his own country of America with his wife to work amongst the dark peoples of Burma. The Burmese were heathen folk, practising evil customs and knowing nothing of the story of Jesus. Judson and his wife laboured amongst them, telling them of Christ, teaching and preaching unsparingly, and, as well as they were able, healing them of their sicknesses. The king had a disease of the eye and Judson's friend, who was with them, was able to ease him of his pain.

Then, suddenly, war broke out between Burma and Britain and almost before they could realise what had happened, Judson had been captured, bound and thrown into prison. It was in vain that he protested that he was an American and not English. It was enough for them that he spoke the same language. Indeed, it was only through the pleadings of his wife that his life was spared at all. It is probably true that the Burmese suffered very much at the hands of the British, but unfortunately for Judson they worked off their revenge on their prisoners and he was made to suffer dreadful torture at the hands of his jailers.

* * *

Meanwhile his wife was kept a prisoner for some time in her own home, suffering because her husband suffered and she could do nothing to relieve his pain. Her baby son was born while Judson was still a prisoner and he could not have come at a sadder time.

At last, however, peace was declared and Judson set free, but his joy was brief. Mrs. Judson, weak and worn-out with the anxious time through which she had passed, caught the small-pox and died in a few days and her baby son soon followed her.

* * *

One would not have been surprised had Judson turned his back on the land that had treated him so shamefully; but no, with splendid courage and in a most generous spirit he began again to minister to those people who had repaid his former service with such brutal treatment.

It is one thing to *say* we will forgive when people have injured us though that is sometimes hard. How much more difficult it is to show our forgiveness by rendering good for evil, by giving unselfish service to those who have harmed us. That is the Christian spirit at its finest.

— Jessie Murphy.

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